

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: Dec. 22, 2005

Contact: Jill Warren Lucas  
Phone: 919/733-5612

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**GOV. EASLEY LIFTS BAN ON 'FLYING' REINDEER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**  
*Annual Tradition Helps Clear Path for Santa's Sleigh*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley is keeping with holiday tradition and has again temporarily lifted the importation ban on reindeer coming into the state. This action will authorize Santa to bring his sleigh and flying reindeer team into North Carolina to deliver gifts for Christmas.

“Santa’s elves have given me notice that North Carolina has an unusually high number of good children this year,” said Easley. “To ensure that Santa can make all his deliveries to our state, I am granting a temporary reprieve to flying reindeer beginning on Christmas Eve and lasting through the early morning.”

Easley added that he is making this declaration today to give proper notice to Santa and to let him know that Rudolph and the other reindeer are welcome to visit North Carolina homes.

“As Santa makes his travel plans, I want him to know that North Carolina is anxiously awaiting his arrival,” said Easley. “I wish Santa and his team good luck on this special night, and I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday.”

More than 30 states across the nation including North Carolina prohibit the importation of reindeer, elk, white-tailed deer and other species in the family Cervidae until the U.S. Department of Agriculture establishes a chronic wasting disease program. The neurological disease has been found in some animals in the midwestern and western United States, but has not been detected in North Carolina.

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